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IMPROVED CONDITION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN RUMANIA

Hundreds of villages and towns in the Mures valley in Transylvania are populated exclusively by Hungarians. In the past, these Hungarians were exploited and oppressed because of a deep-seated prejudice against foreign nationalities.

The present regime, however, through the new constitution, assures equality of rights among all nationalities in Rumania. As a result, the entire Hungarian Autonomous Regiune achieved important economic advances. Cities were rebuilt; lumber mills were established; modern caterpillar tractors were given to the lumber industry; new railroads were built to the heart of the wooded areas; and 70 new agricultural collectives were established.

The Simo Geza furniture factory, established only a few years ago, is the pride of the regiune. It has an elegantly furnished recreation hall, a main library with over 4,000 volumes, seven mobile libraries, theater groups, dance and choral groups, and many recreational activities for the workers.

Cultural and educational activities have also improved under the new regime. Whereas in the past the Hungarian language was suppressed, many schools today teach their courses exclusively in Hungarian. For example, in the former Mures Regiune 318 elementary schools, 14 technical schools, 5 intermediate schools, 6 professional schools, and one Institute of Medicine and Pharmacology are conducted entirely in the Hungarian language. Of the 900 students enrolled during 1952 at the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacology, 483 received scholarships and other monetary assistance from the state.

In Targul-Mures there is a newly established state theater. In the meeting houses and cultural halls of every village along the Mures valley there are hundreds of artistic groups giving regular performances. These, along with the libraries, reading circles, and adult classes, serve to improve the cultural level of the Hungarians in Rumania.

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Agricultural collectives are moving along at a satisfactory pace, even though at times kulaks attempt to thwart their development. At the Gheorghe Doja Collective, peasant Nagy Domokos reported that the collective had been penetrated by kulaks Gali Beni, Olah Lajos, Kiss Domokis, Kiss Ferenc, Kiss Karoly, and many others. Because of their acts of sabotage against the threshing campaign, the kulaks were ousted from the collective, even though their dismissal meant that the collective would lose large portions of land. However, the loss of their land from the collective was compensated by additional land brought in by seven other families who joined the collective soon thereafter.

During 1951, the collectivists from the Gheorghe Doja farm obtained 1,800 kilograms of wheat per hectare, and in 1952 this number increased to 2,200 kilograms per hectare. However, the individual peasants, who could not benefit from the machinery and advanced methods of the collective, obtained a yield of only 1,000 kilograms per hectare. Seven peasant families, formerly extremely poor, were able to build their homes since joining the collective in 1951. Another improvement was shown in the inventory of the collective itself, which was increased in the last 2 years by the addition of new barns, a new flour mill, a water pump for the garden, a motion-picture machine, a maternity home, a clinic, a cultural home, and a truck.

The provisions of the new constitution dealing with the Hungarian Autonomous Regiune met with the unanimous approval of all Hungarians in Rumania. The new freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all foreign minorities were especially lauded by all peasants. However, a certain fear was expressed at meetings. Collectivist Klara Marton, from the Partizanul Collective, voiced the feelings of all when she warned the Hungarians to be on guard against possible subversive acts by Rumanian kulaks, who would attempt to undermine the progress of socialism in Rumania.

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